

and human rights and adhere to the rule of law.

In voting in favor of House Resolution 243, my thoughts were with Father Nguyen Van Ly, a well-known peaceful political dissident, who was shown in an alarming video being physically silenced by Vietnamese guards at his anti-propaganda trial. The literal image of free speech being smothered has been broadcasted to the world and the United States cannot stand quietly by. The list of those dissidents being harassed, threatened, and detained continues to grow as Vietnam attempts to quiet political dissidents prior to their general elections this May.

I urge the Department of State to adopt the re-designation of Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern for its continued oppression of religious freedom, as recommended by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. It is my hope that the Vietnamese government will consider how their actions are viewed by the world, and that they immediately cease their detention and harassment of peaceful, democratic activists.

CONGRATULATING MORGAN
MCDONALD

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Morgan McDonald, an outstanding young woman from Aurora, Colorado. Ms. McDonald, a student at Prairie Middle School was recently named a recipient of the 12th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award as a state recipient. The award honors this young woman as one of the top two youth volunteers in Colorado for 2007.

Created in 1995 in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Prudential Financial's Spirit of Community Award program has become America's largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteerism. It is designed to emphasize the importance of service and encourages young Americans to give back to their communities.

Nominated by her middle school, Morgan helps lead a school group that works to build leadership skills and improve the scholastic achievement of African-American students. Morgan will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC from May 5th to 8th for the program's national recognition events. During this trip she will be considered to become one of ten National Honorees.

Ms. McDonald should be commended for her commitment and selflessness. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP
KEITH JENKINS ON HIS EPIS-
COPACY CONSECRATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Bishop Keith

Jenkins, on his recent ascent to the episcopacy of the Open Door Evangelistic World Ministries in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PROCLAMATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP OF REFORMED EPISCOPAL
CHURCHES

Grace and Peace be unto you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ,
Hallelujah!

It is with great felicity that we proclaim the imminent consecration of the very Reverend Keith Jenkins to the episcopacy in the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on the twenty first day of October, Anno Domini, two thousand and six, at The Elim International Fellowship, The Protestant Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York.

The aforementioned consecration will commence at ten o'clock forenoon, at 20 Madison Street, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

May the blessings of the strength of Israel be upon you, our good brother Keith; and the love of the resurrected one sustain and preserve you. May your steps be guided by the everlasting spirit and your speech be seasoned with salt that you may know how to give an answer to every man concerning the hope that lieth within you.

Signed, His Eminence The Most Reverend Wilbert Sterling McKinley, Archbishop Primate His Eminence, The Most Reverend Trevor Dominic Bentley, Archbishop Exarch.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL CHILDREN
ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce an important piece of legislation, the Teacher Excellence for All Children Act: the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every child, in every classroom, is taught by an excellent teacher.

First and foremost, I want to thank our teachers for their dedication and commitment to taking on the overwhelming demands of their profession. We ask them to perform miracles every day in our underfunded and overcrowded system. And we owe it to them and to their students to provide more than rhetoric about our commitment to encouraging talented people to enter the field and stay there.

Let me also thank the organizations, and their members, who go to work every day with the commitment to help our schools and our students succeed. They are a great constituency for this legislation, and I appreciate all of their input into this bill. Thank you to the Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers, the Associations of Community Organizations for Reform Now, the Business Roundtable, the Center for American Progress Action Fund, the Children's Defense Fund, the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights, the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the Education Trust, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, the National Council of La Raza, National Council of Teachers of English, the National Council on Teacher Quality, the National Education Association, the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, New Leaders for New Schools, the New

Teacher Center at DC-Santa Cruz, Operation Public Education, Teach for America, and The Teaching Commission.

We all remember the difference that outstanding teachers have made in our lives, but we also know that students who most need the best teachers are least likely to get them. There are many reasons why people decline to enter the teaching profession or decide not to remain there including reasons such as low pay, lack of meaningful professional development, lack of respect, inappropriate working conditions, or little opportunity for advancement.

By failing to address this problem, Congress is shortchanging our children and costing taxpayers an estimated \$2.2 billion annually to replace teachers who have left the profession. We need to act immediately to ensure that we have an adequate supply of exemplary teachers for the next generation of students.

My 43 colleagues who are original cosponsors and I are prepared to respond to this challenge facing American education with an innovative approach that matches the seriousness of the challenge with the "The TEACH Act of 2007"—the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every teacher, in every classroom, teaching every child, has the supports they need to help their students succeed.

The single most important factor in determining a child's success in school is the quality of his or her teacher. We all remember a teacher—or even several teachers—who made us proud of ourselves for what we accomplished and helped us face our future with hope and confidence. Imagine if every one of our teachers over the years had given us that same strength.

The TEACH Act will accomplish four critical goals:

Increase the supply of outstanding teachers.
Ensure all children have teachers with expertise in the subjects they teach.

Identify and reward our best teachers.

Keep the best teachers and principals in our schools.

This bill is a major legislative initiative that will attract our most talented teachers to our nation's classrooms where they are needed the most—and encourage them to stay there.

Over the next decade, we will need to hire more than two million new teachers to serve in our public schools. Yet today, we have no national plan for attracting outstanding students into the teaching profession, or keeping them there.

My bill addresses this need by helping school districts to pay more competitive salaries and by offering up-front tuition assistance to talented undergraduates committed to a career in education, to established teachers working in fields like math and science, where the teacher shortage is most acute, and to retirees with math and science expertise who would like to join the ranks of our nation's teachers.

The TEACH Act also offers up to \$20,000 in loan forgiveness to highly qualified teachers who are working in high priority communities.

We know that too many teachers do not receive adequate preparation or training for their jobs to improve during the first years on the job. As a result, over half of new teachers leave the profession within five years.

The TEACH Act helps new teachers transition into the classroom and build their skills through state-of-the-art induction programs